

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – CONGREGATIONAL
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii
May 26, 2013 – Trinity and Memorial Day Sunday

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! We celebrate this day the sacred memories of those who have gone before us and blessed us with the sharing of their loves, their labors, and their spirit of commitment.

People: You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise and reduced your enemies to silence. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Leader: When we consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is each person that you are mindful of us, or the sons and daughters of humanity that you care for us? We remember treasured blessings and words of hope born in the desire for peace by those whose memories we honor.

People: You made everyone of us a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned us with glory and integrity. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Leader: You made people guardians and stewards over the works of your hands; you put everything under our feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

ALL: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Invocation: Psalm 92

Come Holy Creator with the Power of Jesus' Spirit and Love. Embrace us in this hour and every day of our lives. It is good to praise you LORD and to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. You sent caring women and men in previous generations committing them to build the future we have inherited; we honor their memories. You make us glad by your deeds, O LORD, how profound are your thoughts! You anoint our souls with forgiveness and compassion. May mercy and justice flourish like palm trees; may we always announce, "The LORD is upright; he is our Rock, and there is no evil in him. His presence

blesses us every day in Jesus Christ.” O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Amen.

WE SHARE THE WORD OF GOD

Welcoming Ruth Farrell into Membership

Transfer of letter from Grace United Church of Christ, Lancaster, Ohio

Scripture: Proverbs 8:1-4 and 22-31 and I Cor. 15:51 -53

The Blessings of Wisdom

Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud: *“To you, all people, I call, and my cry is to the children of men and women who live!...”*

“The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old long ago”...

Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the earth. When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master laborer, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in all the children of the humans race.”

“Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last Trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable (uncorrupt able), and we will be changed. For this perishable corruptible body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality.”
(I Cor. 15:51-53)

Sermon: “Wisdom Calls From Generation to Generation: Begin the Conversation, Talk Openly, Celebrate Life Before You Die”

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Call to Confession: “We even boast in our suffering; for suffering produces endurance; and endurance produces character; and character produces hope; and hope does not disappoint us; because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.
Amen (Romans 5:3-5)

Confession: (in unison) God we live in the fullness of your presence every moment. You see and touch everything we do as we act, and speak, and have our being. Be patient with us in our anxiety and doubt. With truthfulness call us to moral courage in our homes, our community, our state, and in our nation. Make us one with all people. May the sacrifices of those whose memories we celebrate forever inspire us to live with generous compassion for family, friends, strangers, and even our enemies? With forgiveness for our failures, guide us now to the love of Christ for others. May our example of service and commitment inspire our world to embrace peace? Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen (Romans 5:1)

Invitation to the Offering: God is at work in you for the good. You are God's disciple of generous mercy. Your words and your actions bring blessings to the lives of others. You are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Prayer of Dedication: Sacred and Holy God you keep us and know us. You have embraced our sacred memories and welcomed with grace the spiritual blessings of those whom we love who have died. Now we place before you the offering of our own lives – our work – our study – our health – our rest – our commitments – so that we might give honor to your loving care for this your world. Guide us with wisdom in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Announcements

Vacation Bible School
at the Church of the Holy Cross
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
June 18, 19, and 20
5:00 to 8:00 PM
Dinner provided